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effect of centrifugal force it is well to fasten a cord around the bottles after the manner shown in the figure. The velocity at which the table rotates can be controlled by regulating the position and angle of the fan with respect to the vanes. If the bearings of the wheel are properly adjusted and the table with its load carefully balanced, a speed of less than four revolutions per minute can be maintained. The direct air current from the fan should not strike the cups.

Such a revolving table as the one here described was run in the writer's laboratory almost continuously for nearly three weeks at a speed ranging from 4 to 20 revolutions per minute and gave no trouble whatever. In order to determine the accuracy of the data obtained, a test series of 20 cups was operated under various conditions for more than a week, readings being taken daily. It was found that with the table revolving at a rate of 8 revolutions or less per minute the coefficients derived from the readings of consecutive days varied very little; for several days none of the cups showed a variation amounting to as much as one per cent, while the difference in evaporation between two standard cups amounted to less than 0.2 per cent. With increased speed, however, the coefficients are apt to fluctuate, due to various causes.—G. E. NICHOLS, *Yale University*.

POISONING BY GINKGO

Several botanists after dissecting the fruits of *Ginkgo* have developed what appeared to be ivy poisoning. As the juice of the *Ginkgo* produced an immediate irritation of the skin, it was suspected that the rash which developed the following day was due to this. Later tests proved this to be the case. The poison is in the outer fleshy layer. It does not affect all people, since the gardeners at Smith College and at Mount Holyoke College have never been poisoned by handling the *Ginkgo* fruits, but a gardener in Elyria, Ohio, who cares for a fruiting tree in the yard of Mr. WILLIAM G. SHARP, writes that he is poisoned every fall by handling the fruits. The irritation produced is greater than that of poison ivy, and the infection spreads more persistently and is communicated from one person to another. Pustules rarely form, however, as in ivy poisoning, but there is a heavy red rash, attended by the formation of welts in severe cases.—ANNA M. STARR, *Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.*